CLAIMS

1. A telecommunications service session control system comprising at least one server and in use interacting with software objects derived from an application programming interface, said application programming interface comprising:

a first framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a client machine during participation in a service session;

a second framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during a service session, said second class representing said service session; and

a third framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during participation in a service session, said third class representing said participation.

2. A data store holding an application programming interface for use in developing multi-party services to be implemented on a telecommunications service session control system, said application programming interface comprising:

a first framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a client machine during participation in a service session;

a second framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during a service session, said second class representing said service session; and

a third framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during participation in a service session, said third class representing said participation.

3. A system or a data store according to claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ said second class comprising methods intended to be overridden in said service specific object classes, said methods being for receiving calls from said system indicating changes in participant status during a service session.

4. A system or a data store according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ said third class comprising methods intended to be overridden in said service specific object classes, said methods being responsive to messages from said system indicating changes in participant status during a service session.

5. A system or a data store according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein said second class comprises a method for identifying characteristics of a plurality of service specific objects derived from said third class and instantiated during a service session.

6. A system or a data store according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein said third class comprises a method for identifying characteristics of a plurality of service specific objects derived from said third class and instantiated during a service session.

7. A server comprising a data store according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~ claim 5, the server being arranged to transmit the application programming interface on request.

8. A service development system for generating service specific application parts to be implemented in a distributed manner in a telecommunications service session control system, said system comprising:

a service component constructor:

for storing data defining a plurality of framework components to be distributed between a client station and a server, and a plurality of customisation components for customising said framework components in a service-specific manner;

for generating data defining a first user interface for representing said framework components and said customisation components as icons on a visual display means; and

for defining relationships between said framework components and said customisation components to generate customised components by operations on said first user interface;

a control system simulator for simulating the interfaces and functionality provided by said telecommunications service session control system; and

a service tester:

for generating interactions between said control system simulator and said customised components; and

for generating data defining a second user interface for representing participation in a service session via said telecommunications service

session control system, on a visual display means, in response to said interactions.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said data defining a second user interface represents a plurality of participations in said service session.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said service tester is responsive to user input to specify the number of said participations.

11. A system according to claim 9 ~~or 10,~~ wherein said service tester is responsive to user input to specify the state of participation of a participant in said service session.